

Space Station

To discuss ...

- What are we building that may be a “stepping stone” to a future world..?
 - The International Space Station.
- How big is it going to be..?
 - Two football fields. (Measuring on the outside with solar panels.)
 - Two jumbo jets. (Living space on the inside.)
 - Two jumbo jets give you about as much living space as three average-sized homes. Most of the “rooms” will be filled with science experiments and laboratories.*
- How long do you think you could stay in a sealed space of that size, without being able to go outside..? (Except for a space walk inside a sealed space suit.)
 - Scientists who go there now stay about five months at a time.
 - They have their own phones, video games, music CDs, and books.
- What are some of the questions we need to answer about living in space before we decide whether we want to build bigger and bigger space stations...the kind of place you might visit some day..?
 - Can we learn to recycle all the air and water – in fact, just about everything – inside a sealed container..?
 - Will we discover things that make life better for people on Earth..?
 - The Space Station is the most expensive construction project in history.
 - It could cost up to \$100 billion. Do you think it will be worth it? (Why..?)
- The Space Station is designed as a science laboratory. What are some of the conditions in space that make it a unique place for doing experiments..?
 - Weightlessness.
 - Extreme cold. (The temperature in space is about 450° F below zero!)
 - No air. (Almost a total vacuum.)
 - Can look at the Earth and see things we can't see as well on the ground. (Climate changes. Ocean currents.)
 - Can look at the stars without any interference from the atmosphere.
 - The best place to test the effects of living in space on people.
 - Learning to live in space will help us prepare for long space journeys, such as to Mars.*